

Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

Thursday, September 8, 1966
Illinois Valley News

Grayback Camp

How fortunate for the people of the Valley, and their out-of-state guests, that the Pfaendlers, of Grants Pass, decided to camp for a couple of days recently in Grayback Forest Camp. This wasn't their first visit to this shady, lovely stream-side park but it was probably the most momentous, as you shall presently see.

Some years ago engineer Earl and his comely frau Ruth made the delightful discovery that just below Grayback Creek—between Caves Highway and Sucker Creek—is one of the coziest, most restful and beautiful camping and picnicking sites this side of the Big Smokies.

And so, saving the best for the last, after nearly 2 weeks of galloping all over the country in their Scout they decided to spend the last couple of days of their vacation in our Grayback camping park, winding up the second

day by having a dozen relatives and friends join them in a big evening picnic.

Being one of the lucky invitees, and having a special bent for observing and appreciating everything within range that seems at all worthwhile, both social and natural, I was greatly impressed by the excellence and variety of the unlimited supply of delicious picnic food and drink, and also by the loveliness and vivacity of the ladies present. Oh yes, and the warm friendliness of the men, too.

In spite of the fun we were having, an interesting diversion occurred that added still more to the pleasure of the occasion when a pair of newlyweds drove in just at dusk and occupied a campsite nearby. It soon became apparent that these young folks had just one thing on their minds when they left wherever they'd come from. After striking the wrong end of the match several times the youth finally came down to earth long enough to get the campfire going. Then, to their evident dismay, the hungry, love blind zanies discovered they'd forgotten all

about putting some food in the car.

But, according to the old quotation, all the world looks after lovers—one way or another. And so Host Earl, never one to overlook a pretty lady in distress, almost upset our picnic table in his haste to load up a tray with enough food to satisfy a pair of famished choker-setters and present with a gallant flourish to the young bride, almost trampling the groom who, still starry-eyed and seemingly not knowing what it was all about, blundered into the line of advance.

Finally, as evening shadows began sweeping the last of the lingering daylight away and night prepared to envelope the crowded park, the bright nets of camp lanterns and the flickering of many campfires created a picture whose extent and beauty could be realized fully only by making a walking tour of this surprisingly large, beautifully wooded camp ground.

During our campfire conversation inevitably the destiny of this park-like camping and picnicking area, when the projected Sucker Creek

dam is built, came up. According to one rumor, when the new lake created by the dam is fully formed Grayback Campground will be 200-ft, under water. Shocked by this alarming bit of news, and having fallen in love with the place, I decided at once to prevent this catastrophe at all costs and to save this wonderful park for the people of Illinois Valley. Cancelling all engagements and turning over all uncompleted projects to subordinates I went right to work.

Already the Save Grayback Park Committee has been formed, technological details have been worked out, and salvation of the park is assured. Just recently the facts of how this is to be brought about have been declassified, and so, to relieve the agonizing worry of the people of the Valley, I'll explain how this modern miracle is to be performed.

Long before the dam is completed the park will be prepared for the flood. All over the park 3-inch holes are to be drilled 20 feet deep and 10 feet apart, the bottom of each hole flared to a width of 4 feet. Into

each hole will be dumped 10 pounds of special pellets made from a newly-invented plastic-like substance called Geoflote. Into each hole will then be inserted a pipe, the upper end of which will protrude 6 feet above ground, covered with a plastic membrane. When the water rises to a depth of 4 feet above the pipes the water's weight will rupture the million or so diaphragms. When the water reaches the pellets these instantly expand into billions of tiny balloons. The park is suddenly lifted from bedrock and rises intact to the surface of the lake. Grayback Island is born.

It is strictly against my principle to accept donations, even though the Committee is working like mad and at great expense to wrap up all the intricate details of this vast undertaking. But I'll not let my principles stand in the way and risk hurting the feelings of all of you who will insist on helping to bring this wonderful and heroic project to fruition.

ROGUE VALLEY



Food & Friends Menu

FRIDAY – SEPT. 16
ROAST PORK W/ GRAVY

MONDAY – SEPT. 19
SHOYU CHICKEN

WEDNESDAY - SEPT. 21
HAM & CHEESE STRATA

If you need meals delivered please call
541-955-8839.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Call the ADRC at 1-855-673-2372 for local resources

I.V. Lions Medical Equipment

The I.V. Lions also maintains a warehouse of medical equipment including hospital beds, four wheel scooters, manual and electric wheel-chairs, canes and crutches.

"Right now, 337 people in the Illinois Valley are using over 650 pieces of equipment," stated club member Mike Harbert. "We're happy to loan it out free of charge. All we ask is that when you're done using it that you return it."

John Waltermeyer is the medical

equipment coordinator. "This is one of the smartest programs I've ever seen. Every city should have one," Waltermeyer said. "It makes living in this Valley a little better. It would be pretty terrible if you had to go to Grants Pass for every little thing. We have a good selection and good quality. Some days I get three calls or I can go four or five days without any calls. We even loaned an electric wheelchair to a homeless guy."

Additional available equipment includes walkers and knee walkers,

trapeze bars, lifting belts for caregivers and Hoyer Lifts for lifting people in and out of beds. The I.V. Lions are currently seeking donations of more equipment, especially manual wheel-chairs, bedside commodes and shower benches. Cash donations are also gladly accepted.

The medical equipment service is available 365 days a year. The group is listed in the phone book as "Lions Club" at 541-592-4235, or people can contact Waltermeyer directly at: 541-659-1074.

Sponsored by I.V. Wellness Resources

Loneliness is a major factor in our well being. Not only does it make us feel empty, desolate, isolated, uneasy or a host of other descriptions, it is an important factor in our rate of age related declines and our death rates. One doesn't have to be alone to be lonely. A study found that 43% of older adults considered themselves lonely but only 18% of those lived alone. Those who were lonely had a 59% greater chance of significantly declining in health and/or functioning and a 45% greater chance of dying in the 6 years the study lasted. In those of us who are actually physically isolated the actuality of being alone is fraught with increased risks. Being unable to reach out for help and get timely aid in emergencies happens all too often.

An idea worth considering and one Illinois Valley Wellness Resources could help with would be the development of a system whereby we each stay in contact, at least by phone or email, frequently. A system or association where we each contact two members of our association to check-up on each other. This is sometimes called a "phone tree." Phone trees are often used by groups to get information out quickly. One person contacts two people. Those two people contact another four. Those four contact another eight, and so on. Hope-

fully our association will not only diminish the possibility of isolation preventing us from getting help we need but will initiate friendships and other friendly communications. This shouldn't take much time to develop. We will need some legal advice before actually instituting this. Once the OK is given to go ahead we should be able to quick start it through the use of email. At that time any of you who would like to be a part of this could contact us at the email address below. We would like at least your first name and what area you live in (eg. Holland Loop or Arrowhead Dr.). Your area is important so we can try to arrange for contacts close to you in case you want to visit. We should be able to get your email address from your email to us. If you would like to be contacted by phone we will need your phone number. We will not give out this information to anybody outside our association and only to the person in our association who will be responsible for contacting you. We will only give you the information of who will be contacting you and the contact info for the two you should contact. Safety procedures will be developed to insure no one outside our association gets any of this information.

What do you think? Please feel free to comment on this idea and give suggestions- ivwellnessresources@gmail.com.



Senior Bulletin

Gatekeeper Training at I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St. Sept. 17 at 10 a.m. in the River Room.

CHAIR **FITNESS**
classes **FREE** at Healthy U, Monday and Wednesdays from 2 - 2:45 p.m. 535 E. River St., Cave Junction (behind the I.V. Family Coalition) Call 541-592-4888 or visit www.healthyucenter.org.

FREE for Seniors

If you are a senior and want to place a **FREE AD** for a living or health care need call Laura at 541-592-2541 or email laura@illinois-valley-news.com.

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